

Message Text

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43

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH NEWSPAPER ON WATERGATE FOREIGN POLICY
IMPLICATIONS

REF: WARSAW 4154

1. A LONG AND UNUSUAL COMMENTARY ON IMPLICATIONS OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR FOR US FOREIGN POLICY APPEARED IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY'S WEEKEND EDITION, AUGUST 19-20, UNDER THE TITLE, "USA--DIFFICULTIES OF THE DETENTE PROCESS". BEGINNING WITH RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS OF DR. KISSINGER CAUTIONING AGAINST ALLOWING INTERNAL ISSUES TO SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR FOREGOING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, THE AUTHOR, ZOFIA ARTYMOWSKA, DECLARES THAT THE "WATERGATE SCANDAL" HAS REVEALED A "GRAVE CRISIS" IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. WATERGATE, SHE ASSERTS, "STEMS FROM THE POSTWAR DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL RELATIONS IN THE USA AND IS LINKED WITH SUCH ASPECTS OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY AS COLD WAR ANTI-COMMUNISM AND THE US SEEKING TO PLAY THE "POLICEMAN

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OF THE WORLD", CONCEPTS WHICH SHE ALLEGES PRODUCED

"WITCH TRIALS" IN THE 1950'S AND MY LAI IN THE 1960'S AND LED FINALLY TO VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DEPRIVED CONGRESS OF ITS PRIMARY RIGHTS TO DECIDE ON MATTERS OF PEACE AND WAR. BUT, ARTYMOWSKA CLAIMS PARENTHETICALLY, CRITICS OF PRESIDENT NIXON FORGET THAT IN EARLIER TIMES A SCANDAL SUCH AS WATERGATE PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISCLOSED; THEY ALSO FORGET THAT IT WAS PRESIDENT NIXON WHO, "DRAWING REALISTIC CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION", DECIDED TO SWITCH FROM AN ERA OF CONFRONTATION TO AN ERA OF NEGOTIATION. ARTYMOWSKA THEN GOES ON TO CITE THE PENTAGON PAPERS, ITT REVELATIONS, THE "SCANDAL" OF THE SECRET AIR RAIDS, AND FINALLY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO END BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AS PART OF THE "POSITIVE ASPECT OF THIS PECULIAR PROCESS OF CLEANSING THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE UNITED STATES".

2. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS, ARTYMOWSKA RECALLS DR. KISSINGER'S REMARKS IN A RECENT NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW AND EXPLAINS THAT "HE IS TELLING CRITICS OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT BY LINKING THE WATERGATE SCANDAL WITH FOREIGN POLICY THEY ARE JEOPARDIZING THE TRUST WHICH AMERICA ENJOYS ABROAD". HAVING OBSERVED THAT US WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM HELPED INCREASE EUROPEAN CONFIDENCE IN US FOREIGN POLICY, SHE THEN CATALOGS CURRENT US FOREIGN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THOSE OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST EAST. POINTING OUT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S FOLLOWERS AS WELL AS HIS CRITICS FROM THE LEFT AND RIGHT AGREE THAT US FOREIGN POLICY HAS "RECENTLY MET WITH THE APPRECIATION OF THE REST OF THE WORLD", ARTYMOWSKA CONCLUDES BY WARNING THAT THOSE POLITICIANS IN THE US WHO WOULD MAKE THEIR POLITICAL FORTUNE BY THROWING THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATH WATER "MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE RISK OF CHECKING THE POSITIVE DETENTE PROCESSES APPROVED BY THE WESTERN ALLIES AND EASTERN PARTNERS (SIC) OF THE UNITED STATES".

3. COMMENT: THIS DEFTLY WORDED ARTICLE IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE WE HAVE SEEN HERE ON THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS. WHILE AVOIDING THE NITTY GRITTY OF WATERGATE ITSELF, THE AUTHOR MAKES AN ATTEMPT TO PLACE ITS ALLEGED INTERNAL ASPECTS IN A BROAD HISTORICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTEXT. REGARDING THE PRESIDENT, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CITED REMARKS ABOUT HIS FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS, THE AUTHOR CHIDES THE US PRESS FOR "OVERSIMPLIFICATION" IN BURDENING THE PRESIDENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR "EVERYTHING" CONCERNING WATERGATE. FINALLY, THE AUTHOR'S CONCLUDING REMARKS ARE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT WATERGATE'S POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR DETENTE. SEVERAL POLISH JOURNALISTS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS IN RECENT

WEEKS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MEDIA POLICY DIRECTIVE FOR-
BIDDING COMMENT ON WATERGATE. INDEED THE POLISH PRESS
HAS BEEN PLAYING THE WATERGATE STORY IN EXTREMELY LOW KEY,
LIMITING ITSELF TO BRIEF FACTUAL STORIES, USUALLY ON THE
INSIDE PAGES (SEE REFTEL). SEEN AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND
THE ARTYMOWSKA ARTICLE TAKES ON SIGNIFICANCE AS
UNDOUBTEDLY A DIRECTED STATEMENT OF GOP CONCERN AT THE
OVERFLOW THREAT OF WATERGATE TO THE POSITIVE
IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY.
DAVIES

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